THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JULY 26, 2020 • ₹8.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

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NEW STUDENTS CAN'T ENTER U.S. IF COURSE FULLY ONLINE

US officials on Saturday said foreign students not enrolled as of March 9 won't be able to get visas for 100% online courses

WON'T AFFECT THOSE ALREADY THERE

The latest action will not affect international students who are already in the US or those returning from abroad. It comes as US President Donald Trump has stepped up pressure on educational institutions to fully reopen despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Many leading US universities, including Harvard and Princeton, have pushed their classes entirely or mostly online

WILL HIT POOR STUDENTS HARDER

- Studying from home would be a challenge for many, especially those from poor or war-hit countries. Also, many students would need to attend classes at odd hours due to time zone differences
- Saturday's announcement comes days after Trump rescinded a hotly contested order to expel foreign students already in the US

2.5 lakh
FOREIGN STUDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO ENTER THE U.S. THIS YEAR

UN report warns of ISIS presence in K'taka, Kerala

Says 150-200 terrorists planning to avenge their leader Asim Umar's killing; NIA charge sheet against 17 accused also makes mention of threat

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

A United Nations (UN) report on terrorism has warned that there are "significant" numbers of Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka. The report has warned that the terror organisation — al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), which reportedly has between 150 and 200 militants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, is planning attacks in the region to avenge the death of their leader Asim Umar.

Umar alias Sana-ul-Haq hailed from Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh. He was killed in September last year in a joint military operation by US-Afghanistan forces. The AQIS is now headed by Mahmood Osama, a Pakistani cleric who was earlier the spokesperson of the proscribed terrorist organisation.

The UN's 26th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS, al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities comes close on the heels of the charge sheet filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), earlier this month against 17 accused in the Bengaluru ISIS module case, most of whom have been arrested. The NIA had stated that the accused from Kerala and Karnataka had floated a terrorist organisation, 'Al Hind', which was planning to execute terror strikes in South India. "The Bengaluru ISIS module is reportedly inspired by the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) or IS-K, which has presence in Central and South Asia," said an official source.

The NIA on July 13 had arrested two persons – Nabeel S Khatri and Sadia Anwar Sheikh — from Pune, who are allegedly associated with the ISKP and were reportedly in touch with a Kashmiri couple —Jahanzeb Sami Wani and his wife Hina Bashir Beigh — who were arrested by the NIA in March this year from Delhi.

The federal agency, in the charge sheet, had stated that 'Al Hind' was founded in April 2019 from the house-cum-office of an accused, Mehboob Pasha, in Bengaluru with the objective of carrying out terror attacks in South India and for establishing the Islamic Khilafat in India.

"'Al Hind' is reportedly 'Hind Wilaya' (Province of India), which finds mention in the UN report," the counter-intelligence officer added.

2 KERALA MEN BEHIND GURDWARA ATTACK

On March 25, the ISKP, or IS-K, had executed a terror attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul, killing 27. Muhammed Muhsin alias Khalid al-Hindi and Sajid Kuthirummal from Kerala were reportedly behind the attack.

PHILANTHROPY

Infy co-founder Shibulal, family sell 0.2% stake for ₹786 crore

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

INFOSYS co-founder and former CEO S D Shibulal said on Saturday that he and his family have sold 8.5 million shares of the company over the last three sessions between July 22 and 24 on the stock exchanges, representing 0.2% of the paid-up equity share capital. The total value of the transactions translate to over ₹786 crore. The sale was executed by Citigroup Global Markets India as the sole broker. The market capitalisation of Infosys on Friday stood at ₹3,92,962.68 crore.

"Over the last three days (July 22-24), the family members have sold a portion of their holding in Infosys Ltd on the stock exchanges. Proceeds from the partial stake monetisation will be utilised for a combination of philanthropic and investment activities," a statement from Shibulal's family office said.

As of June 30 this year, S D Shibulal held 17.6 lakh shares (0.04 per cent stake in Infosys).

CONTINUED ON: P10

NEVER-ENDING WAIT

Migrants wait for buses at Palace Grounds to reach the railway station and board trains to their home states, in Bengaluru on Saturday | PARSHURAM H B

Cong to take fight to all Raj Bhavans

RAJESH ASNANI & RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur/New Delhi

THE political crisis in Rajasthan that began as a feud between rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is now turning into a tussle between the Chief Minister and Governor Kalraj Mishra.

While Gehlot and his loyalist MLAs continue to mount pressure on the Governor for an assembly session, Mishra has so far not given any indication that he will yield to the pressure. Angered by an unresponsive Governor, the Congress on Saturday announced that it would hold protests outside all Raj Bhavans across the country on Monday.

"PCCs will hold protests in front of Raj Bhavans across the country against this naked murder of democracy and subverting institutions on Monday, the 27th of July, 2020. Join this mass movement to save our democracy & Constitution," the party's organisational secretary K C Venugopal tweeted.

The party will also hold an online campaign, 'Speak up for democracy' on Sunday against what it called the BJP's constant attempts to topple elected governments and misusing constitutional bodies. Gehlot, meanwhile, held a string of meetings with his MLAs and cabinet colleagues. In his meeting with the MLAs, Gehlot said that if needed, he was ready to go to the President to ensure that the "BJP conspiracy" to delay a test of strength does not succeed.

"If we have to picket Rashtrapati Bhavan or even the PM's residence we will do so," Gehlot told the MLAs. CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

MP CM Chouhan tests positive for Covid-19

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday tweeted that he has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the first CM in the country to get infected. He is admitted at a designated private hospital here | P7

'Labour, land laws only relaxed'

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH losses due to the lockdown running into lakhs of crores of rupees, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar has his eyes set on a Rs 5 lakh crore investment target in the next five years and creation of 20 lakh jobs. To realise this, Shettar has driven his ministry to draft and then the cabinet to approve the New Industrial Policy 2020-2025. Right from amendments to Land Reforms Act to passing ordinances amending labour laws, Shettar has played the key role in policy changes to attract investments. The seeds of industrial policy reform were sown in Davos last year when Shettar accompanied Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to the WEF. FULL INTERVIEW: P3

State will provide insurance cover for archaks, temple staff

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IN a move that will benefit 50,000 people and their families, the State Government has initiated steps to provide insurance cover for archaks and other employees working in state-owned temples.

In a letter to the Principal Secretary, Endowments Department, on Thursday, a copy of which is available with *The New Sunday Express*, Endowments Minister Kota Srinivas Pujari said there is a need to implement the decision at the earliest to provide relief to the priests and families of employees.

Department officials have been directed to include employees at state-owned temples under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyothi Bima scheme and also enrol them under State Bank of India's group personal accident insurance policy at the earliest. The Central insurance scheme will provide Rs 2 lakh cover to family members in case of death due to accidents.

As many as 34,559 temples come under the ambit of the Muzrai Department, of which 175 are Class-A (with annual revenue of over Rs 25 lakh), 163 are Class-B (annual income between Rs 5-25 lakh) and 34,221 are Class-C (annual income of less than Rs 5 lakh). About 50,000 archaks, pradhan archaks, Group C and D employees work in these temples, but are not considered government employees. Their salaries are paid by the respective temple trusts. PS

Mysuru DC gets a call, in a 'quaran-dary'!

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

ON Friday, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner **Abhiram G Shankar** got a call and he answered it, not knowing that he would be pulled up for a crime he had not committed. He was taken aback when the voice on the other side warned him against breaching the quarantine rules. For a moment, he thought it was a prank call. But then, he told the caller that he was the Deputy Commissioner and that was indeed his number. The caller, however, refused to believe that it was the DC himself speaking and told him not to pull a fast one.

The DC may have solved many problems easily before but this time, it took him some time to convince the caller of his identity. Once convinced, the caller, a personnel of the quarantine watch team, profusely apologised to the DC and told him that a person under home quarantine was missing and his database had the DC's number.

It was later discovered that a man, the primary contact of a patient, had given the DC's number instead of his own to the authorities, before disappearing. So the quarantine watch team ended up tracking the DC's number, leading to a goof-up of the 'highest order'!

When contacted, the DC confirmed the incident and said that the man was a primary contact and they were verifying his test status. PS

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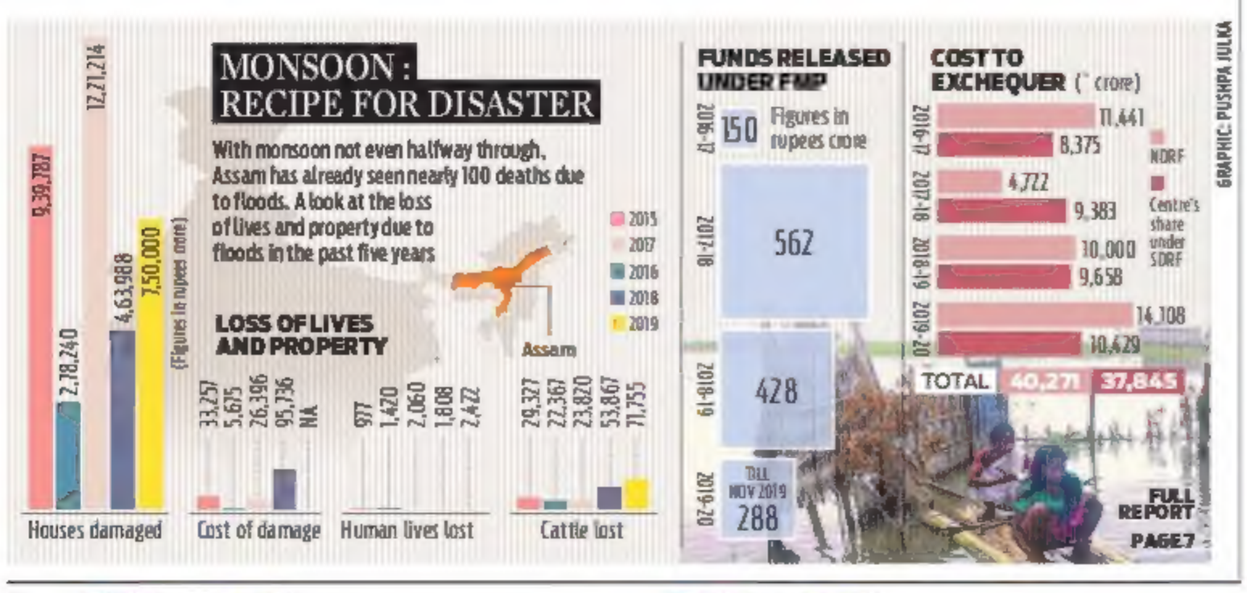

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